

Building camaraderie

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Nine cadets run marathon

Cadets use Marine Corp Marathon to reinforce core values

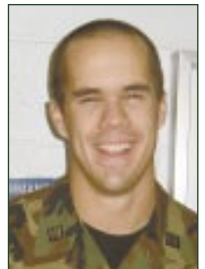
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Squadron honors heritage

ROTC cadets get orientation flights on Jayhawk aircraft

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Cadet continues family's tradition

One father, three sons pass through Det. 720's program

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Over 200 cadets from six different universities including Texas State, UT Austin, UT San Antonio, University of Houston, Texas Christian University and University of North Texas, competed April 9 to see who was the best in the Lone Star State. The cadets competed in an array of events from organized sports to individual events. Teams were ranked by overall performance to receive points, which were totaled at the end to determine the overall winner. (Courtesy photo)

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Cover: Det. 205 Cadets Karsten, Pontius, C. Smith, Barth, A. Smith, N. Williams, Boksha and Ranachowski all lend a hand in packing away the tent during a field training exercise, April 9th. (Courtesy photo)

Leader

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Correction

In the April issue, the Det. 910, University of Washington's Valentines for Vets article was written by Cadet Hazel Lozano.

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Moving tips for new officers

By 1st Lt. Neal Frazier

Air University Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

The first move with the Air Force will be an experience for new officers. As soon as they receive their orders telling them when and where to report, they should contact their Traffic Management Office. The people at TMO will help make arrangements for the move. The experienced professionals at TMO do an excellent job of finding qualified independent contractors who will pack household goods, load them onto a truck,

and deliver them across the country or even overseas. TMO will even arrange for household goods to be stored at no cost to an officer until he has found a home, either on or near base, and deliver the items to him.

With all the help that TMO provides, it is easy to breathe a sigh of relief, and leave it all to them; but there are still things that the officer needs to do to help the move go smoothly. Nothing is more frustrating than

unpacking one's precious belongings only to discover that an item is broken or worse yet, missing altogether.

Murphy's Law seems to affect military moves. The key to a smooth move is preparation. Well-organized and well-documented household goods unpack more easily, allow the officer to know right away what if anything is missing, and help prove what was lost or damaged during the move.

Here are some moving tips to help you protect your household goods:

1. Video tape the property prior to the carrier coming to pack. A good audio and video description is invaluable if the property should be destroyed or lost. If no video camera is available, then take photos. If possible, show electronic and mechanical items in operation to verify the condition prior to shipment. Take the tape with you, do not put it in your household goods shipment.
 2. Jewelry and other high value items should not be shipped.
 3. If you decide to ship high value items, the valuables must be listed on a pickup inventory. Also, you must be able to verify what you owned and its preshipment value.
 4. Before the move, you should prepare a personal inventory and gather proof (original purchase receipts, charge card receipts, preshipment appraisals, etc.) of major items like electronic equipment, art objects, paintings, collections, antique furniture, grandfather clocks, etc. You should also keep this information separate from your household goods.
 5. The preparation of the pickup inventory is the most crucial step in the moving process. You must control the packing and inventorying of your household goods.
 6. Watch the carrier employees who fill out the inventory to make sure they describe the condition of the property correctly. If you disagree, document the specific reason for disagreement at the bottom of each inventory page.
 7. The most common complaint by members is that there were a lot of packers, and that it was too hard to watch everything. Nevertheless, you or your agent must understand that you need to exercise some control and authority.
 8. If you cannot be present at the time of packing and pickup, then you should make sure your spouse or agent knows what to do and arrange for help if necessary. Please note, an agent acting on your behalf is equivalent to you being there in person. You will be bound and responsible for any mistakes your agent makes.
 9. Make sure the packers write adequate descriptions of the box's contents on the boxes and also on the pickup inventory. Every item does not have to be listed, but a general category of the contents should be on the outside of each box. Again, if you disagree, then you must document why.
 10. Make sure that items that would not logically be packed together in a certain box are specifically listed. Examples: a TV in a bedroom box with clothing, or a lamp in a box marked garage.
 11. Remember, it is your move and you are in charge of it. You should protect yourself by ensuring that the quantity, quality, and condition of the property is accurately reflected on the inventory and by other means available before the goods leave your control.
- Should you have damaged or missing property, contact the legal office at your first base upon your arrival. There are deadlines for filing notice of damage to personal property and for filing claims.

Law Day impacts Airmen's freedoms

By Capt. Ephraim Gerstein

AFOATS Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Quick: Name an American holiday you associate the most with freedom.

You probably guessed the 4th of July, right? Well, you're right, that certainly is one, but have you ever thought about Law Day? Like Independence Day, Law Day is a Federal holiday, passed by Congress and proclaimed by President Eisenhower in 1958 to take place every year on May 1.

While it is not normally marked with fireworks and barbecues, it is a day worth celebrating, particularly this year, under the theme "The Jury — We the People in Action."

Just as the Air Force defends our freedom through force of arms, juries defend our freedom through rule of law. As the American Bar Association points out on its website, we trust these small groups of our fellow citizens to make the most critical decisions facing our society, and in doing so, we confirm the faith of our fellow Americans to properly govern our country.

This is not just an example of freedom — it is freedom. It is the very embodiment of what American democracy stands for, and that we are fighting all over the world to preserve. It is the fairest, finest way for a society to do justice — the envy of the world. Did you know that the military has a justice system just like the civilian

world? It does, except for one thing — ours is even better!

While all Americans are lucky to have such a wonderful system, we in the military are especially lucky because our system is, in every respect, even more protective of our rights. Yes, that's right; it's even freer, even fairer and even safer. To be certain, we have juries.

An Airman accused of a crime has the right to be tried before a jury of his peers like any civilian. If he is an officer, a jury, called a member panel in the Air Force, will be made up entirely of officers. If he is enlisted, it may also include enlisted members. But our liberty is safeguarded at every stage of the judicial process, at times by protections of a degree unknown in any civilian system.

You can see this contrast from the very beginning of the process, when an Airman is merely suspected of a crime. Like civilians, Airmen have

a constitutional right against self-incrimination. They do not have to admit to committing crimes. Suspects also have the right to a lawyer. Police must inform a suspect of these rights before any questioning can take place. But for civilians, these rights only apply to custodial arrests conducted by the police.

For Airmen, these rights apply to anyone who suspects you of a crime, anytime and anywhere. For example, let's say your commander suspects you of embezzling money because you just bought a flashy new car. If he wants to ask you questions even remotely related to his suspicion, he must first read you your Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 31 rights, which guarantee you the right to remain silent and the right to talk to a lawyer.

Now, about that lawyer you're entitled to. Who will it be? Will they be qualified to defend you? Will they be competent? In many civilian

jurisdictions, that is a real concern. Some states do not even have a public defender's office because the judges appoint private attorneys to defend you, usually the ones that do not have enough business. But if you are accused of a crime in the Air Force, your defense attorney will be the best in the business.

The attorney will be from your base's Area Defense Counsel. They are outstanding criminal lawyers who are selected to defend you because of their finely honed legal skills and wide-ranging experience in criminal law.

The position is coveted and competition is keen to become an ADC. I can promise you from personal experience that your ADC representation will keep the government up late nights.

Just like civilians, Airmen accused of serious crimes have the right to a grand jury proceeding to determine if the government has enough evidence for a jury even to consider their guilt. In the Air Force, we call that an Article 32 hearing.

But our Article 32 hearings represent much higher hurdles for the government than civilian grand juries do. In the Air Force, they are conducted like miniature courts-martial, with an investigation officer presiding over the proceeding much like a judge presides over a court.

Moreover, unlike in a civilian grand jury, in an Article 32 proceeding, you have the right to have your attorney present, challenging the government's arguments, questioning its evidence and making the case that your case need not go to trial.

Because of all of these safeguards, it is a lot harder to put an Airman in jail than it is a civilian. The government has to do a lot more homework, have more and higher quality evidence, make better arguments in court, and all with much greater difficulty.

But what does this have to do with freedom for all Americans? How does this relate to the ideals we fight for? It relates in two ways. First, as our former President George Washington pointed out, the soul of an army, or in our case, an Air Force, is discipline.

In other words, if you cannot get

Airmen to act as one for the common interest, we cannot win wars. But as our founders understood, you do not accomplish discipline through an unfair system where you can convict at will. That would only cause disloyalty and a lack of morale. You can only have effective discipline that earns the respect of the entire fighting force when Airmen know the disciplinary measures to be just.

In going to great lengths to respect the rights and liberties of our Airmen, we are also going to great lengths to ensure that when we punish an Airman for committing a crime, we are as nearly as possible absolutely correct in our assessment of the facts. Because our Airmen know our system is as close to entirely fair as we can make it, they trust it and heed its results. That is discipline, and it is the critical tool that makes us effective freedom fighters.

More importantly, however, it relates because as Airmen, we are the example of democracy in action. It has often been said that we do not practice democracy. We only defend it, but that is not true. We practice democracy by defending it, and we defend it every time we practice it.

Every time our Airmen go abroad to defend freedom, the world is watching. They are watching how we treat others, but they are also watching how we treat each other.

The critical steps we take to ensure that every Airman gets a fair trial, whether his guilt or innocence is determined by his fellow Airmen only after they have had the opportunity to consider the most reliable evidence we have available, is the clearest proof we can bring to show that we walk the walk.

We are not mercenaries but American Airmen — Americans who cherish our freedoms just like all of our fellow citizens, and who practice those freedoms in uniform and out.

Law day is May 1. You may not be tempted to breakout the fireworks. But whatever you do, take time to celebrate. The right to trial by jury is a right we can be proud to defend both in the Air Force and out. Both keep us safe and free, and that's a cause to celebrate with some fireworks.

Cadet explores dream job

By Cadet Derick Gee

Det. 440, University of Missouri-Columbia

Since I was a young child, I dreamt of becoming a Judge Advocate General officer in the Air Force. While I am studying political science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, in preparation for law school, an experience with the military courtroom has remained out of my reach — until now.

This year, I joined the Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action program through my detachment. The program matches cadets with officers at Whiteman Air Force Base who volunteer their time to be mentors.

Normally, the program consists of job shadowing to teach cadets about a specific career field and the quality of life in the Air Force. I was given a different opportunity.

During the first visit, my mentor, Captain Hilliker, showed me around the office and patiently answered my many questions. She could tell I was interested. After speaking with the JAG staff, I was offered a volunteer internship. Through the internship I can attend courts-martials, article 32 investigations, and legal counsels. This summer I will go to the base once a week to learn how to file legal briefs, and sit in on cases and investigations.

Being in the courtroom and watching the cases in action is an unbelievable experience! Through the internship, I have learned about being an officer in the Air Force and had valuable experiences in the JAG career field. I have also had the chance to talk to many JAGs and judges. This is a complex career field, and I have plenty more to learn, but I have come closer to reaching my dream. To all cadets in ROTC, I recommend you take advantage of AFCOMAP. The opportunity can lead to great learning experiences you cannot get elsewhere.

Molding effective leaders

James C. Wiggins
AFOATS Curriculum

If you spend much time around the Air Force you will eventually find yourself involved in a debate over what attributes a good officer should possess. The questions are abundant. Should a good officer be mission driven or people driven? Is a great leader a motivator or a disciplinarian? The debate inevitably leads to the nature versus nurture argument of whether great officers are born with the art of leadership or trained in the craft of leadership.

The argument naturally proceeds to a discussion about commissioning sources. Where do the best officers come from? Is the best officer prior enlisted? Does the best officer come from Officer Training School, Reserve Officer Training Corps or the United States Air Force Academy?

Fortunately, or unfortunately depending on your point of view, there is no one correct answer to these questions. Over my 22-year military and civilian career I have found that being a great officer has more to do with the type of person the officer is than it does

approach to the world. Around the same time, John Locke, an English philosopher, took the opposite view when he theorized that people were born *Tabula Rasa*, or as a blank slate to be molded by their life experiences.

How do we reconcile these opposing arguments to answer our question? Personally, I subscribe to a belief that falls in the middle of the two thoughts. In other words, officership is half art, or those things you're born with, and half craft, or those things you can learn. While the middle ground might seem to be the easy way out of the debate, it is in fact the best way. This belief encompasses the best elements from both sides of the nature versus nurture argument.

Samuel Huntington's classic book, "The Soldier and the State," theorized that officership was "...neither a craft nor an art...but an extraordinarily complex intellectual skill...." While I agree with Huntington's assertion that officership is a "...complex intellectual skill requiring comprehensive study and training," I disagree with his theory that officership is neither a craft nor an art. In fact, as asserted earlier, officership is both a craft and an art.

As a career educator and retired officer, I know we can help a person perfect the craft of officership through "comprehensive study and training," but he must come to the table already possessing traits in the art of officership. How do you recognize an officer who possesses these traits? Easy, they are people with ethic and values such as integrity and selflessness.

Integrity is everything. Regardless of who you are you get exactly one opportunity to compromise your integrity! Once you do something to give people a reason to question your integrity everything you do from that point on will be subject to interpretation by your superiors, your peers, and most importantly, your subordinates. When that happens, your effectiveness as an officer and a leader is forever diminished.

Why does anyone care if you occasionally fracture a law or two to get the job done? Because, if you'll violate one law or order you might violate another; if you'll tell one lie, you might tell another. It is called the slippery slope.

When you give an order to a subordinate, you must always be cognizant of the impact your actions have on the way they perceive and react to your orders. If your subordinates see you break laws or cut corners they might be inclined to follow your example and not your orders. In our profession that could prove lethal to them or others. If you care about your people, then do not let this happen, zealously guard your integrity by always doing the right thing.

What does officership have to do with caring for your troops? As an officer, you will be entrusted with America's greatest resource, her sons and daughters. The oath of office you take demands you do nothing to compromise that trust. It should go without saying that one of the keystones of effective officership is the ability to maintain that trust and take care of your people. While some might think that people are not important in a force as technologically advanced as ours, you must not let yourself fall into this trap. Without our people all the technology is useless. Without our people we cannot fly, we cannot fight, and we cannot win! As a service, we are famous for saying our people are our greatest asset. This has never been truer than it is today.

Officership is all about leading people to effectively accomplish assigned missions. As you progress through your military career you will hear the often quoted leadership maxim, "if you take care of the troops, the troops will take care of the mission." This is the essence of the art of officership. As you progress through your training remember, anyone can master the "extraordinarily complex intellectual skill" of officership through "comprehensive study and training" but not everyone brings the necessary art to our craft.

**"There are no bad regiments,
there are only bad officers."**

— Field Marshall Lord Slim

with where he earned his commission. While my evidence is admittedly anecdotal, I have found that without exception, those officers I have admired the most brought simple concepts to their leadership; they never compromised their integrity and they always took care of their people.

While these are admirable traits, the question remains, are great officers born or can anyone become a great officer? Like the earlier question about commissioning sources, there is no clear-cut answer to this age-old question either.

As far back as the 17th Century, French philosopher René Descartes theorized that people were born with personalities and beliefs that drive their

ROTC cadets use marathon to reinforce core values

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

Nine Air Force ROTC cadets used the Marine Corps Marathon to help them become better leaders.

Cadets from University of Notre Dame Det. 225 traveled from Indiana to Arlington, Va., recently to compete in the 29th annual Marine Corps Marathon.

The detachment's athletic goals are to



Air Force ROTC Cadet Tim Kogge runs during the Marine Corps Marathon. Nine University of Notre Dame cadets from Air Force ROTC Det. 225 traveled here from Indiana for the race.

have cadets keep in top physical form and lead healthy lifestyles. It readies them for the rigors of an air and space expeditionary

force lifestyle that awaits them in defense of America at home and abroad.

"Our marathon run followed the core value of excellence in all we do," said Cadet Timothy Kogge. "It prepares us for future missions and deployments where physical fitness is as much a requirement as intelligence and competent leadership."

He led his team, finishing at 2 hours, 49 minutes and 45 seconds, giving him 45th-place overall and third-place in the 20-to-24 age group.

Cadet Kogge ran high school cross country and had competed in the Chicago Marathon in 2002 and 2003, along with the Boston Marathon in 2003.

"Everyone strove to do their best, whether finishing in less than three hours or in five. Everyone accomplished something amazing," said Cadet Kogge.

His training program included running 60 miles a week by mixing long runs, speed workouts, temp runs and recovery days. The team's training included runs of more than 20 miles, peaking at 22, before tapering off weeks before the marathon.

"It's tough to balance school, ROTC duties and running," said Cadet Kogge. "Sometimes running has to take a back seat to other

obligations."

The team consisted of Cadets Kogge, Caitlin Diffley, Kelsi Matwick, Keri Matwick, Darren Manley, Scott Martin, Alexa Garot, Tabitha Rand and Michael Marchand. The Matwicks are identical twins. Both crossed the finish line together in just over four hours. Being of equal ability, the twins took turns setting the pace.

"Keri led us strong in the beginning of the marathon, and I pulled us through to the finish," her sister said.

The cadets said they used the race and other opportunities to raise money for the Arnold Air Society and a local relief organization.



Courtesy photos
Air Force ROTC Cadet C. Scott Martin rests after running in the Marine Corps Marathon.

Marathon showcases cadets' spirit

Det. 670, Oklahoma State University

Oklahoma State University's Air Force ROTC cadets won multiple awards at the fifth annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, April 24. Not only did the 22 cadets and officers compete in the marathon, but they also won three trophies. The cadets fielded four, five-person relay teams, and two runners who completed the full 26.2 mile marathon.

Leading the effort was "OSU AFROTC Team 1." Completing the course in just over three hours, they finished first among 29 teams in the college division. On their

heels, eleven minutes later was the second OSU cadet team.

However, the guys were not the only cadets to bring home "hardware." The ladies team finished second among 24 teams in the Open-Female Division. They trailed the winners by a scant four minutes.

In the Open-Mixed Division, the fourth OSU team led by Col. John Woodward just missed winning a trophy by placing fourth. Both Cadet Joshua James and Maj. Andy Clower ran the entire race in less than four hours.

This was the third year in a row Air Force ROTC teams have participated in the Oklahoma City Marathon, though this year was the largest and most successful showing.

Fusing physical fitness and camaraderie, the marathon is an excellent opportunity to showcase the physical determination and spirit of future Air Force officers. Major Clower, the project officer said, "only one of this year's runners will graduate this May so we hope we'll bring home even more hardware next year."

Squadron honors Tuskegee heritage

By Bob Hieronymus

12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Four instructors from the 99th Flying Training Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, recently flew two T-1A Jayhawk aircraft to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., where they provided orientation rides to ROTC cadets from Tuskegee University.

This mission is part of an important heritage.

The story begins during the heat of World War II, when Jim Crow laws were common and segregation of the races was legal in this country. Even though the nation was at war with foreign enemies, people of African-American heritage were not allowed to serve alongside fellow Caucasian citizens. African-Americans in uniform were permitted to serve in certain, segregated supply and support units and few were allowed to

hold commissions.

Because leading African-Americans at the time insisted people of their race were just as patriotic as other Americans, the Army chief of staff agreed to set up a flight school at Tuskegee College. One requirement, however, was the aircrews who graduated from the school would serve in segregated units.

Four squadrons eventually saw combat, the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd Pursuit Squadrons (later fighter squadrons), and they set records that have few equals, according to Bernard Nalty in his book, "Winged Shield, Winged Sword: A History of the United States Air Force." Pilots of the four units, organized as the 332nd Fighter Group, flew more than 200 bomber escort missions and never lost a single bomber they were protecting to enemy aircraft. The group's planes were marked with a readily identifiable red flash on their tails, and even the German pilots came to fear the "Red Tails," Mr. Nalty wrote in his book.

Today the 99th FTS marks its T-1A aircraft with a red tail flash in honor of the men who served more than 60 years ago. The 100th Flying Training Squadron, also located at Randolph Air Force Base, is responsible

for the same training program as the 99th FTS, except that the 100th FTS is staffed by the Air Force Reserve. The two squadrons share the same airplanes, flight scheduling, training and life support resources.

Three years ago, Gen. Donald Cook, commander of Air Education and Training Command, directed the 99th FTS to start a flight orientation program for ROTC cadets at Tuskegee University. The program has the two-fold purpose of encouraging the ROTC cadets there to make decisions in favor of an Air Force career and to honor the unique heritage that connects the squadron with the university.

Maj. Roch LaRocca, one of the pilots on this year's mission, said he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the cadets.

"They were full of questions about the aircraft and about the Air Force," he said. "We invited each of them to take a turn in the jump seat in the cockpit as we flew local missions around Alabama. They said it was a really cool experience."

While the weather was cloudy during the Randolph team's visit, the cadets still enjoyed their orientation flights, said Maj. Jeff Fagan, another of the 99th FTS pilots on the mission.

"You could feel their excitement when we broke out of the clouds and were right on the flight path to the base," Major Fagan said. "They were really interested to see how our flight navigation systems work. We made a good impression and had a great time sharing some of our flying stories with them."



Maj. Roch LaRocca



Photos by Airman Joseph Mulvey

The 99th Flying Training Squadron marks its T-1A aircraft with a red tail flash in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen who served more than 60 years ago.

One father, three sons continue tradition

By 2nd Lt. Holly Rosene

Det. 720, The Pennsylvania State University

With the start of the fall semester, every member of the Bair family will be or have been in the Air Force at some point.

It started back in 1976 with retired Air Force Col. Tim Bair, who said he did not have any direction for his life during his sophomore year in college, until a friend came along and told him about Air Force ROTC. "It was like a light bulb went off. It just seemed so natural," he said.

Colonel Bair spent two years in ROTC at Penn State, during which he served as the cadet wing commander and an Arnold Air Society member.

His then-girlfriend and now wife, Donna Bair, followed him around to two different colleges after he commissioned. She spent two years in the Air Force ROTC unit at the University of Virginia before commissioning as well. Mrs. Bair was a nurse in the Air Force for about a year before becoming a stay-at-home mom to her three sons.

Colonel Bair spent the first 16 years of his career working with the F-106 and the T-33, and the last 14 years with the F-16.

Colonel Bair said his best assignment, professionally, was at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea. "Kunsan is the old Air Force, everyone is dedicated to the mission and facing the same hardship of being away

from their families," he said.

Of all the assignments, Colonel Bair said that their time at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany was their favorite. "We loved it and we'd go back," said Colonel Bair.

Despite moving four times in six years, the Bair family said they loved the experience.

"What [the children] lacked in stability, they gained in being in Paris, and eating foreign food," he said. The family was stationed near or able to see the Olympic Games three times, he added.

Andrew Bair, a cadet majoring in religious studies, will commission in May. Cadet Bair began the program enthusiastically, even thinking that the Air Force might not be tough enough for him. "I wondered if maybe I should have gone into the Marines," he said.

Cadet Andrew Bair will be stationed at Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he will be a Special Tactics Officer. He is thankful for all of the opportunities that ROTC has afforded him. "I have had plane rides, jumped out of airplanes and gone to (the National Conclave)" Andrew said.

Daniel Bair, a cadet aspiring to be an Air Force chaplain, said he did not want to do anything other than join the Air Force.

"It's just the way I'm wired," said Cadet Daniel Bair. He will attend the first Field Training Unit at Ellsworth Air Force Base,

S.D., this summer, after which he will marry his high-school sweetheart, Victoria Davidson, in State College, July 23. Cadet Daniel Bair said he and his fiancée are looking forward to moving overseas if possible.

The youngest of the three Bair sons is Christopher, a senior at State College Area High School. He has been awarded a four-year Air Force ROTC scholarship to Penn State University "It seems like it'll be fun," said Bair.

When Christopher Bair enters ROTC, Det. 720 will have had four Bairs pass through the program, either as a cadet or an instructor. Colonel Bair spent time at Det. 720 as a cadre member from 1985 to 1988. As a cadre member, he served as an AS 400 instructor, education officer and Arnold Air Society advisor.

"I know it sounds corny, but I'm proud [my boys] are serving their country, and the Air Force really does take care of you," Mrs. Bair said. "An Air Force base really does feel like home to us."



Cadet Andrew Bair

On your marks, get set, CANS!

By Cadet Jarret Gallardo

Det. 001, University of Alaska Anchorage



Courtesy photo

Det. 001 cadets work together to fill trucks with canned food items.

Det. 001 conducted a canned food drive for their General Military Course project in March. The cadets gathered donations from the Northern Lights area in Anchorage, Alaska.

In the midst of the stormy winds and dense snow, the cadets secured plastic bags and flyers to the residents' doors to let the neighborhood know they were coming back to gather food for local agencies.

During the dark and early Alaskan morning hours, the cadets hit the streets again to collect the canned goods. The heavy rainfall did not hinder the cadets' progress as they went back to the houses to pick up the plastic bags. The detachment raised 1,020 items of food stuff, which is approximately 900 pounds of food, and it was donated to the Food Bank of Alaska and Beans Café.

Texas' first intercollegiate field day

Det. 840, Texas State University-San Marcos

Texas State University-San Marcos was the site for the first Texas Air Force ROTC detachment field day, April 9. More than 200 cadets from six different universities, Texas State University, University of Texas Austin, University of Texas San Antonio, University of Houston, Texas Christian University and University of North Texas, competed to see which detachment was the best in the Lone Star State.

Each team participated in basketball, ultimate-football and nine field events, including 400 and 1,600 relays, low-crawl, ranger push-ups, line push-ups, group crunches, football pass, wheelbarrow race and pull-ups. The team received points according to how they placed against other teams in each event.

University of North Texas took the honors for overall winner, and three teams tied for second place. UT San Antonio walked away with the Warrior Spirit Award after demonstrating their teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the day.

"It was a close race for the winner, with most of the schools coming within one point of each other," said Cadet Max Kimmel, the

field day officer in charge. "I had to recount a couple of times to make sure the scores were accurate."

The top teams from each category were also recognized during a barbeque that took place at the conclusion of the day in Sewell Park. The participants were invited to "cool down" after a hard day of athleticism in the San Marcos River while getting to know fellow Texas cadets.

"The visiting units got a chance to see the central Texas hill country and partake of some Texas State hospitality," said Col. Daryl Hausmann, a professor of aerospace studies at Texas State. "The whole day turned into opportunities for team building, camaraderie and esprit de corps – not just for individual universities but among all six schools in attendance. Great weather, delicious food and dedicated people resulted in fun for all!" he added. Several universities, including the winner, expressed an interest in holding this tradition-in-the-making again next year.

"Hopefully, this will become a revolving event with a different school hosting it each year," said Capt. Chris Victoria, the comman-



Courtesy photo
Cadets from various detachments across the state of Texas competed in an array of events varying from organized sports to individual events.

dant of cadets at TSU. "I like to think we set an excellent standard; one that the next host will try to exceed. We look forward to competing again next year."

Air Force takes gold at Joint Service Olympics

By Cadet Jason Jones

Det. 685, Oregon State University

For the past several decades, Oregon State University has been the home of Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force Reserve Of-



Courtesy photo

Oregon State University's Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force ROTC cadets compete in first Joint Service Olympics, Jan. 26.

ficer Training Corps. Each ROTC unit has its own means of physical training. The majority of the time the workouts consist of intense calisthenics, long runs and road marches. However, some occasions allowed the cadets to show off their athletic skills through different games such as football, basketball, and soccer.

A friendly competition was created amongst the cadets within the individual military branches. The cadets were eager to determine which military branch at Oregon State University is most competitive. All of the OSU ROTC units competed against each other in the first Joint Service Olympics, Jan. 26.

The competition consisted of four

events: basketball, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, and a physical skills competition that was composed of push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and a 1.5 mile run. The Marine and Navy cadets competed together, and scored 400 points out of 1,200. The Army cadets accumulated 350 points, and the Air Force scored the most by raking in 450 points.

With only a 100 point difference between first and third place, it showed how all branches are equally competitive.

The goal of the Joint Service Olympics was to allow a friendly and fun competition to allow Armed Services ROTC units to show their competitive nature towards one another and prove what branch truly is the best. In the end, the Air Force cadets won the overall competition and bragging rights until next year's Joint Service Olympics.

From Special Ops to OTS:

One PJ's journey

By Officer Trainee John Yi
Officer Training School

For Officer Trainee Tim James, the road to Officer Training School has been a remarkable one. While many of his classmates are fairly new to the military – and in some cases, even fresh out of college – he has spent the past 12 years as a pararescueman, or PJ, in the United States Air Force.

Pararescuemen are responsible for providing emergency and life-saving services to Airmen, Soldiers, and civilians in both peacetime and combat environments. Indeed, their motto – “That Others May Live” – exemplifies the kind of dedication and self-sacrifice that is required of these elite Airmen.

The Orlando, Fla., native has traveled the world over during his Air Force career. He has been deployed to all corners of the globe, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Korea. He has executed rescue missions under heavy enemy fire, as well as braved the roughest of elements – whether desert or ocean, jungle or arctic. Yet, he describes his experiences with all of the coolness of a

seasoned veteran; the dangers of being a PJ are now second nature to him.

Surprisingly, OT James considers his current duty – as an Officer Trainee at Maxwell Air Force Base – as possibly his greatest challenge yet. He explains that the initial shock of readjusting to the “basic training environment” was challenging, especially considering his seniority. In fact, he was scheduled to be promoted from Technical Sergeant to Master Sergeant around the time that he will be earning his commission through OTS. As a result, OT James was faced with a difficult choice: whether to continue his Air Force career as a Senior Noncommissioned Officer, or pursue a commission. In the end, he has absolutely no regrets: “I wanted to be able to lead and make a difference right away, and I’ll be able to do that as a Combat Rescue Officer coming out of OTS.”

As a CRO, OT James will be leading and commanding personnel recovery operations, providing expertise to command and battle units, and conducting rescue and recovery operations. He explained that his new job will require him to serve as more of a manager than a direct combatant; whereas PJs are responsible for the actual execution of a mission, the CRO is responsible for the preparation, management, and ultimately, the successful accomplishment of the mission.

Beyond his ardent desire to lead troops, OT James points to his wife and three children as his main motivation for entering OTS. He is confident that he will be able to take better care of them as an officer, and is grateful that his wife has been supportive of him. In fact, it is evident that he is quite a family man.



Officer trainee Tim James maneuvers the mountains of South Korea during navigational training. He was a pararescueman for the past 12 years before entering Officer Training School.



Officer trainee Tim James takes part in a high angle rescue training in Albuquerque, N.M.

Courtesy photos

OT James admits that the toughest part about OTS is being away from his family.

“I’m used to being deployed 150-200 days a year, but even when we were in a war zone, we could call home every day. Here at OTS, we’re so busy with studying or preparing for inspections that I’m lucky if I can call home once a week.”

Needless to say, OT James looks forward to being surrounded by his family on graduation day, as he pins on his gold bars. In the meantime, he recognizes that all of his sacrifices thus far will pay off in the long run.

“I’ve been doing the same thing for 12 years. I wanted to get that motivation level back, and I needed a new challenge. I’m looking forward to it!” said OT James.

Age doesn't matter in politics

By Christina Osborne

Det. 158, University of South Florida

"I want to begin a life of service to my country, beginning in my hometown," responded Cadet Danny Burgess, when asked why he ran for a seat on the Zephyrhills City Council. The 18-year-old cadet is the youngest council member ever elected in Zephyrhills. Unlike

practice of getting involved in current events and political campaigns. Cadet Burgess's prior involvement in the community includes being a co-founder and the president of the Zephyrhills Reagan Republican Club, as well as being a member of the Youth City Council.



Courtesy photo

Det. 158 Cadet Daniel Burgess campaigned at a local Founder's Day parade with the help of his two cousins, Natalie Eiland and Carly Tuscano.

Cadet Burgess said that although the majority of the council are supportive of him, there are those who have doubts about whether or not he is the right man for the job.

However, he did not let the opposition discourage him. In an article published five days before the election, he wrote: "...after being criticized...for lacking life experience, I

many teenagers, Cadet Burgess knew what he wanted to do with his life, and was very focused on his goals. In addition to his position as a councilman, he is a freshman political science major at the University of South Florida and an Air Force ROTC Det. 158 cadet.

Cadet Burgess is a life-time resident of Zephyrhills, he is the oldest of three children, and a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He attended Zephyrhills High School, where he was on the varsity baseball team, and he graduated as the "Most Outstanding Student" for the class of 2004. Although he is the first in his family to hold a political office, the Burgess family has made a

got to thinking, why should my age be such a big factor in this race? I am well aware that with age comes wisdom as I am often reminded of this by my parents...When you look back into history, you see many people who accomplished great things at young ages...Helen Keller... Alexander the Great... Dwight Gooden...there are many more, but you have to look no further than our brave young men and women, many fresh out of high school, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"They risk their lives daily and are entrusted to keep us safe and free here at home...I may be young, and I may not know the answer to everything, but does

anyone? ...I will represent the citizens and ask those who will be affected what would be the right decision. It sounds like I might be old enough for this job."

Enough people agreed with him, and when the votes were tallied, Cadet Burgess beat his opponent, the incumbent Celia Graham, an elementary school teacher, by a margin of 20.7 percent, April 12.

As a city councilmember, he has two main goals. The first is to make sure that every citizen's voice can be heard. He is working to create a program called "Neighborhood Representatives," which will divide the city into small districts, with a representative appointed to each district. The people in each district can bring all concerns to their representative, who can in turn bring it before the council; ensuring that all issues, both major and minor, will be dealt with.

The second issue that is close to his heart is making sure that Zephyrhills keeps its "small-town atmosphere." With extensive housing developments in progress, he feels very strongly about enforcing the city's strict lot size and sidewalk rules, to facilitate smart growth for the once-rural area.

Looking toward his future, Cadet Burgess says that after his commissioning he anticipates having a rewarding career working in either the security forces field or the Office of Special Investigations. After his retirement from the Air Force, he foresees reentering the political scene, and working his way up through the ranks.

"Who knows where that could lead... president? It is definitely an option. What better way is there to serve people and do good things for the country?" said Cadet Burgess. Det. 158 congratulates Councilman Daniel Burgess on his newly elected office, and wishes him the best of luck as he strives to achieve his goal of service to our country.

CSAF runs into Det. 765 cadets

Det. 765, The Citadel

Fifty cadets from Det. 765 and two cadre members boarded a chartered bus and headed north, bound for Washington, D.C., April 17. For many, a surprise encounter was the highlight of the trip.

The cadets toured the Pentagon, they had a chance to speak with a panel of Air Force officers, noncommissioned officers and then visited Brig. Gen. Ronald Yaggi. General Yaggi is a Citadel class of 1977 alumnus and currently the Director, Regional Affairs, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. The general talked with the cadets about a wide range of issues from his time as a cadet at The Citadel to where the Air Force is headed in the twenty-first century.

The next stop was at Andrews Air Force Base, the home of Air Force One and the 89th Special Missions Wing. After visiting Andrews, the cadets toured the capital and the house chamber. Then, the rest of the day was spent at the National Mall.

The next morning cadets participated in a two-mile run through the Constitution Gardens with plans to sight-see the monuments along the way. It turned out the cadets were not the only people performing physical training that morning. The cadets were greeted, much to everyone's surprise, by General John Jumper, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

General Jumper was out with his wife enjoying the cherry blossoms, when he saw the Air Force PT uniforms and came over to say hello.

The highlight of the trip turned out to



Courtesy photo

General John Jumper, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, visits Det. 765 cadets during a chance encounter in Washington, D.C., April 18.

be the general graciously taking about 20 minutes of his time to answer questions and pose for a group photo. It was truly a motivating experience for the group of aspiring officers.

Cadets exemplify 'service before self'

By Cadet Courtney Schultz
Det. 810, Baylor University

Det. 810 recently won the A.A. Hyden Award, naming them the Outstanding Student Organization in Community Service on campus. At the beginning of the spring semester, the detachment commander, Lt. Col. David Riel, introduced the cadets to the idea of servant leadership. Servant leadership is the ability to combine both service and leadership in one specific role to make the community a better place. The detachment embraced the challenge by contributing 1,600 volunteer hours in the 2004-2005 school year.

"We really wanted to push the Air Force core value 'service before self' this semester, so we kicked off the year with a university-led seminar on servant leadership. The cadets really grabbed hold of the whole concept. I'm very proud of their efforts and

accomplishments this semester," said Colonel Riel.

The cadets participated in numerous service activities within the Waco, Texas, community. They visited nursing homes, veterans hospitals and local schools as a part of the big brother/big sister program. Cadets also helped construct the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, volunteered for The Race for the Cure (which supports breast cancer research), sponsored The Run for Hope, a memorial 5K race for leukemia research, ran Service for Soldiers and participated in numerous other activities within the Baylor and Waco communities.

They also contributed over 400 service hours while participating in Baylor's Steppin' Out. "Baylor's Steppin' Out is a nationally recognized program which demonstrates

the commitment Baylor students have to service. Days are set aside for Baylor students to go into the community and volunteer in projects ranging from neighborhood clean-ups to programs at nursing homes," said Maj. John Blackwell, an assistant professor of aerospace studies.

Helping build a playground in a nearby city was the project assigned to the 102 participating cadets. The cadets worked together, helping sand down playground equipment, spread mulch, paint, construct the equipment and pick up trash along neighboring streets.

The ROTC program is designed to mold students into future Air Force officers. Through the program, cadets learn to put "service before self" by leading, while at the same time giving back to the community.

Det. 775 hosts drill meet, flag ceremony

Det. 775, University of South Carolina

The Flying Gamecocks of Det. 775 hosted the Third Annual Gamecock Invitational Drill Meet at the Blatt Physical Education Center on the university's campus, March 5.

"The drill meet is a wonderful opportunity," said Cadet Kristin Ziolkowski, a former cadet wing commander and drill meet planner, "not only for the Junior ROTC cadets who come away with a trophy, but also for the senior ROTC cadets who come away with a valuable learning experience. Attention to detail, complex planning, scheduling, and communication skills must all be employed to effectively carry out a successful drill meet."

She was lavish in her praise for Cadet Elwyn Dunn, her former co-planner who was in charge this year.

"Cadet Dunn did a lot more than scheduling and sequence of events," said Cadet Ziolkowski. "He made sure trophies were ordered, ensured we had all of the rooms and equipment we needed, and he was the sole cadet communicator with the Junior ROTC units."

Cadet Dunn's brother, Cadet Charles Dunn, set up a command post with computers and runners in a room just inside the physical education center. Even though he has maintained this role for three years, the job still presented unique challenges.

"As communications officer, I found it easy to build a program that would allow scores to be entered into a table and stored in the database for sorting and comparing results," Cadet Charles Dunn explained.

The drill meet also provided recruiting and fund raising opportunities for the detachment.

"The cadets developed the plan and executed it. We provided some guidance and helped untangle any problems, which are usually very few," said Lt. Col. Tim Gochnaur, the unit admissions officer and a 1983 graduate of the university. "(The drill meet) allowed the cadre to walk around, renew our contacts with instructors, and meet parents and high school cadets to talk to them about what we do at South Carolina. We think it is the right kind of environment to showcase the kind of quality people we

have in our program."

The South Carolina cadets picked up this project in the 2002-2003 school year as a prime leadership and recruiting project. The event is planned and executed entirely by Flying Gamecock cadets with assistance from the detachment cadre. Invitations are sent out to all Air Force Junior ROTC units in the state. This year's event was attended by cadets, instructors, and family members from 23 schools.

The events began with an opening flag ceremony on the athletic field next to the PE center. The flag ceremony was the creation of the detachment commander, Col. Jay Seward. The logistics and choreography of the ceremony were set up by senior Cadet Alisha Mason and Cadet Ziolkowski.

"This flag ceremony meant so much to Colonel Seward," said Cadet Ziolkowski. "The amount of thought and passion that went into this on his end made me want to produce something as equally magnificent to what he had imagined. The script came mostly from Lt. Bryan Cox, a public affairs officer at Shaw Air Force Base and a USC graduate. However, I did make some changes."

Cadet Ziolkowski and Cadet Mason, who also served as a detachment drill and ceremonies officer, ironed out the details.

"We came up with a rough idea of what we wanted to see," Cadet Ziolkowski explained, "then we needed seven professional, sharp individuals and that is exactly what I got."

The flag detail was composed of senior cadets Kenny Ferrell and Stan Komitov; junior cadet Gershwyn Caruth; sophomore cadets Craig Zinck, Julian Raymond, and Robert Long; and freshman cadet James Chandler.

"Their patriotism and devotion to this ceremony were clearly evident by their interesting mix of nervousness and pride the day of the performance," said Cadet Ziolkowski. "I am very proud of them for



Courtesy photo

The cadets carried seven different American flags, each representing a different period in American history and each with a unique story.

everything they did."

"Many of the finishing touches on the performance came from the seven cadets because they wanted it to be perfect for their first appearance," said Cadet Mason.

"Their attention to detail led to numerous compliments from directors and Junior ROTC staff members. Several cadets also responded with numerous praises and enormous pride in the flag under which some day they hope to serve. The purpose of the ceremony is to enlighten cadets to the struggles this nation faced and the banners used to represent those time periods leading up to how Old Glory finally became the great emblem it is today," she added.

The event was well organized and professionally executed, said retired Air Force Lt. Col. James Tucker, Lexington High School senior aerospace instructor.

"Every year my cadets look forward to participating in the Gamecocks Invitational because we know that the competition will be keen, and the senior South Carolina ROTC cadets running the event will be topnotch," said Colonel Tucker. "We were really impressed this year with Cadets Elwyn and Charlie Dunn. They did a super job!"

Sailor overcomes language, childhood barriers

By Lance Cpl. Darhonda Hall

Growing up in the Central American country of Guatemala, Petty Officer 3rd Class Rene Berducido, dental technician for the Naval Dental Center, endured many hardships on his path to joining the Navy.

After being raised by his grandfather for nine years in the town of Guatemala City, Guatemala, Berducido left the city and traveled to the United States after his mother established a stable job and home for him and his sister.

"I arrived in Miami about a year after Hurricane Andrew hit," Berducido remembered. "My mother did not have much to offer, but just being with her was enough for me."

The trip to Miami was more than just a new place to live for him; it was the first time he had met his mother.

Berducido's mother was a teacher in Guatemala, however, she was not making enough money to support her children. His mother made the important decision to leave her children and find a better job in the United States. She left when Berducido was around 18-months-old and his sister was a couple of months old, and she sent money back to Guatemala to support her two children.

After his reunion with his mother when he was nine years old, he was soon put in public school.

"I did not know any English. I had to take English as a second language class," he said. "I remember picking up English, but still to this day, I still cannot understand what I am saying sometimes."

Eventually, he began excelling in the school systems and began working toward his future. Berducido joined his high school's AFJROTC unit, FL-801 at Homestead High School, and his future began to unfold in front of him.

"JROTC is one of the greatest programs that the school systems have come up with," Berducido said. "After one year in the program, I had made up my mind to join the Air Force and serve my country."

Berducido had plans on completing his education at the Air Force Academy. However, Berducido was not yet a citizen of the country and a lot of doors were shut in his face.

"I couldn't see myself doing anything else," he reminisced. "I love the military."

The Guatemalan participated on the Honor Guard rifle team in the AFJROTC program and was promoted to the rank of cadet major in his second year of the program.

"To me, it meant the world. It made me very patriotic," he said.

Upon completion of high school, Berducido decided to join the Navy because citizenship status would not allow him to attend the Air Force Academy.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Darhonda Hall

Petty Officer 3rd Class Rene Berducido, a dental technician for the Navy Dental Center, takes an X-ray of a recruit's teeth at the Depot Naval Dental Clinic Jan. 31.

Although he did not grow up as fortunate as others, he was not deterred nor discouraged to reach his dream — to serve the country that he calls home. Berducido joined the ranks of the Navy Dental Corps to be a dental technician and to advance in his aspirations of becoming a dentist like his grandfather.

The Guatemalan native is now excelling in his field and hopes to continue his profession as an officer in the Navy.

World War II veteran surprised

Det. 505, New Mexico State University

On April 3, 1945, Captain Isaac T. Spivey and his B-24 crew were selected as one of two crews to go on a special mission to conduct photo reconnaissance over Saigon, Vietnam. Captain Spivey and his crew participated in what is believed to be the first B-24 heavy bomber mission conducted in the area.

He flew two missions over the target where eight eager enemy interceptors and approximately 140 bursts of anti-aircraft artillery attacked the two-ship formation. One bomber was damaged by 20 mm fire from enemy aircraft, and the other

bomber received a direct hit knocking out the marker beacon and radio mast of the radio antenna. Over 400 photos were taken revealing the location of eight Japanese heavy gun positions.

In October 1945, Captain Spivey was nominated for the Distinguished Flying Cross Award for his efforts on this and 49 other missions, but the nomination was never processed. In 1986, Mr. Spivey's former secretary, Cynthia Werner, was working with the American Legion to determine whether the award was ever approved. Although Mr. Spivey received

a letter announcing that the award had been approved with the medal and citation enclosed in the package, he was never formally presented the award. As part of the New Mexico State University's Air Force ROTC program's Heritage Speakers series, Mr. Spivey was invited to speak about his experiences over the Pacific on April 8. Then Mr. Spivey was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross by his grandson, Capt. John Caranta, the commandant of cadets at Det. 505. The award was finally presented in a manner worthy of Mr. Spivey's heroic efforts.

Cadet uses cross-town agreement

ROTC helps him land internship at Livermore National Laboratory

By Farraz Khan

Staff writer, The UTD Mercury

The cross-town agreement between the University of Texas-Dallas and the University of North Texas' Reserve Officer Training Corps program helped Cadet Asim Khan, a junior neuroscience major, capture a spot in a prestigious ROTC internship program in Livermore, Calif.

The Military Academic Research Association hosted ROTC Day at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in February.

The three primary requirements for selection in the Livermore program included a minimum GPA of 3.0, a valid university major and the status of full-time cadet in an ROTC program. Khan was able to fulfill the last requirement through the cross-town agreement between the North Texas universities.

Southern Methodist University, Texas Women's University, Midwestern State and UTD have an agreement with the ROTC program at UNT, which allows the cadets' ROTC classes at UNT to transfer to their respective universities.

The all-expenses-paid program included a tour of the facilities and lectures about cutting-edge technologies

and the history of the laboratory.

Additionally, ROTC Day informed cadets about the facility's nuclear assessment program, which tracks nuclear materials, especially in areas that were once a part of the former Soviet Union.

As a junior, Khan ascended to the ranks of professional officer corps, which junior and senior ROTC cadets must commit to by contract. The role involves managing the ROTC program, by leading classes and heading the leadership labs.

"When you interact with Cadet Khan, you can tell he's confident and he knows what he's talking about," said Maj. David Brown, a recruiting officer for Dallas-area ROTC. "He is very dependable."

Khan said UTD has helped him to create a strong foundation of technological knowledge. "UTD has the best labs and is really involved with the IT industry, so it concentrates on developing scientific theories," Khan said. "At the Livermore program I was able to see these same theories applied on the national scale. The implications of this field are very real and help in defending

our country."

Defending our country is something Khan said he is passionate about. He wants to become a military analyst for the intelligence department.

"My skills in speaking Urdu would lend tremendous help in fighting terrorism and representing the United States in the Indian subcontinent," said cadet Khan.

He plans to be commissioned 2006 and take the oath of office promising to abide by military, civilian and constitutional standards.

Khan's decision to join the Air Force arose from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"I want to play a part in defending our country from terrorists," he said. "I also want to get rid of the negative connotation attached to Muslims. I want to show people that all Muslims are not terrorists and that we can love this country as much as anybody else," he added.

Khan feels that the Livermore program, the cross-town ROTC program and UTD are crucial stepping stones that will help him accomplish his goals.

General visits Boston University

Det. 355, Boston University

Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper, Air Education and Training Command vice commander, visited Det. 355 to promote Jillian R. John, a noncommissioned officer in charge of personnel, from staff sergeant to technical sergeant.

The cadets also had an opportunity to hear and speak to General Hopper during his visit, Jan. 28. The general made clear the importance of taking care of and recognizing the accomplishments of the people working with you.

General Hopper also spoke about his experiences in the Air Force, issues

facing Air Force ROTC cadets as they prepare to commission, and how AETC plans on reaching its projected personnel levels.

He went on to speak about the role career broadening will play in the upcoming years as less officers enter the Air Force and how it fits with the Expeditionary Air Force Concept.

After the briefing, the general answered questions from cadets on topics ranging from his personal experiences to AETC policies.

Being able to ask the vice commander

of AETC questions was an opportunity not lost on the cadets.

"He was very down to earth and a good speaker. It was beneficial to hear about the Expeditionary Air Field concept and what we can expect when we go on active duty," said Cadet Bethany Salinas.

General Hopper received his commission at the Air Force Academy and went on to serve in combat during Vietnam, as a wing commander during Operation Desert Storm, and as a commandant of cadets at the Air Force Academy.

Challenger/Columbia Memorial

By Cadet Wade Smith

Det 105, University of Colorado-Boulder

On a cold January morning, the Lt. Col. Ellison S. Onizuka squadron of Arnold Air Society Squadron held its annual memorial to pay tribute to those that lost their lives in both the Challenger and Columbia Shuttle disasters. The solemn event consisted of several ceremonies to honor the crew members who gave their lives so bravely and to show they would never be forgotten.

The memorial started with a flag ceremony and a speech by the AAS squadron commander, Cadet Christopher McLeod.

"We meet this morning to pay tribute to 14 astronauts who lost their lives in tragic accidents," he said. As he elaborated on the achievements of the astronauts, their accomplishments, their passions, and their lives in service, they realized how these men and

women were heroes. As the mournful notes of Taps played and the American flag was lowered to half staff, the attendees realized with sadness that these heroes should still be here with us.

Each person's name from the Columbia and Challenger Shuttles was spoken solemnly into the cold, crisp morning:

Rick Husband, William C. McCool, Michael P. Anderson, David M. Brown, Ilan Ramon, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Ronald E. McNair, Judith A. Resnik, Francis R. Scobee, Michael J. Smith, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory B. Jarvis and Ellison S. Onizuka.

Cadet McLeod concluded the memorial with these words, "To all the members of the Space Shuttle Challenger and Colum-

bia, you have inspired us and touched us... thank you. For as long as the sky is blue and the wind blows, you will live on in us forever."

A procession to the University's Challenger monument guided them to a wreath-laying ceremony. Before the wreath was laid at the foot of the monument, one of the cadets recited High Flight. A final procession was then led to the Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka Memorial. Colonel Onizuka, a former CU-Boulder, Det. 105, and Arnold Air Society alumnus, spent his life inspiring cadets in both the AAS squadron and Det. 105. As the detachment's namesake, the cadets feel a special connection to Colonel Onizuka and the goals he accomplished. They hope to serve the country as well as he did.

Field training prepares cadets, builds camaraderie

By Cadet Nick Karsten

Det. 205, Southern Illinois University



Twenty-four highly motivated AFROTC cadets from Det. 205, Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Southeast Missouri State, gathered together for their first field training exercise April 8th. The cadets were issued two Meals Ready to Eat, that had to last the entire exercise. Canteens, compasses, protractors, flashlights and whistles were also issued.

The next stage of the exercise was a five-mile march to the camp where cadets had to setup a 30-person Alaskan

shelter, the same type the Air Force uses for deployments. The next morning, cadets began their firearms training. The cadets shot for over six hours and became familiar with a wide variety of weapons.

Over the rest of the weekend, cadets received military training on firearms safety, land navigation, first aid and rescue. They also simulated the Air Force deployment process. With the completion of the field training exercise, the cadets were treated to a ride back to campus in a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.

The cadets of Detachment 205 built esprit de corps and became better prepared to become second lieutenants in the United States Air Force.

Top left photo: Det. 205 cadets take aim at the SIU Police Firing Range, April 9.

Bottom left photo: Det. 205 Cadets Barth and Brandes learn how to resuscitate a fellow soldier in case of emergency at the detachment's first FTX, April 8.



Courtesy photos

Houston, we have a base visit ...

Cadets from Det. 003, University of Houston, and Det. 840, Texas State University-San Marcos, had the unique opportunity to visit with astronauts and explore NASA simulators and training facilities during a joint visit to the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Approximately 35 cadets and cadre members were given an in-depth tour, which included information not available to normal Space Center tourists. Their first stop was the Sonny Carter Neutral Buoyancy Lab, the largest "swimming" pool in the world holding 6.2 million gallons of water. The cadets watched the monitors as the astronauts trained underwater on life-size models of the International Space Station. The astronauts stay underwater for up to six hours at a time in full gear, and with the help of scuba safety divers, they solve possible scenarios in similar environments they will encounter in space.

The cadets had the opportunity to explore "historic mission control," the original ground control for all early space missions, to include the Mercury program, the Apollo 11 moon landing,

the Apollo 13 mission, and early shuttle missions, to include the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster. They were then escorted to a shuttle mission control room, where they watched part of a mission simulation and were briefed on the different functions of each station and how each plays a part in every successful mission.

Afterwards, the group was split into smaller groups and taken to space station and shuttle simulators. The simulators are used to provide astronauts a chance to solve possible scenarios so that they are comfortable when going into the actual mission.

The tour concluded at the space station and shuttle mock-ups. The mock-ups, which are identical in size and design as the real thing, are used to familiarize astronauts to the controls they will have when on an actual mission. Here, the cadets had the opportunity to speak with current active duty military astronauts about their experiences in space, their training, and their selection into the program.

The trip was a unique opportunity for future leaders to hear about alternative career paths in the space field.



Courtesy photos

Above: Cadets look-on in a NASA T-38

Below: Cadets watch a video on the future of robots in space in the robotics lab at Johnson Space Center, Texas.

Base visit opens cadets' eyes

By Cadet Tyler Harman

Det. 250, Iowa State University

Det. 250 cadets visited Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., to give them an opportunity to see how an active-duty base operates. The tour started with a briefing about the base's history by Lt. Nicholas Brant, an Iowa State University and Det. 250 alumnus.

Afterwards, Lt. Col. "Claus" Cloesson, a 442nd Fighter Wing Air Force Reservist and also an ISU alumnus, was pleased to show the cadets around an

A-10 aircraft. They also had the opportunity to view an Apache helicopter and a B-2 Spirit. Later, the Cyclone Detachment received a view from an air traffic control tower and a look at underground missile launch control facilities.

At the end of the day, the cadets received an overview of arms from the security forces personnel, and then they talked with individuals on base with a variety of occupations.

Cadet Andrew Radloff plans on pursuing a security forces career. When asked what his favorite part of the trip was, he said, "It was the chance to talk with individuals in security forces and hear about their experiences."

Overall the cadets felt the trip was a success because of the knowledge they gained about the Air Force and Whiteman's involvement in the Air Force's mission.

General speaks to future officers

Det. 019, Alabama State University



Lt. Gen. Dennis Larsen, Air Education and Training Command vice commander, offered advice on leadership during an April 29 speech to Alabama State University ROTC cadets at the Maxwell Officer's Club during a Dining Out.

"In order to succeed throughout your careers, you have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone," said the general during his speech.

When he was a young captain, an official at the Pentagon offered him a job but could not tell him where or what the job entailed. "I took the job (stepping out of my comfort zone)," he said. Turned out the job was to fly the F-117A Night Hawk, the world's first operational aircraft designed with stealth technology. He became the fifth pilot to navigate the aircraft. (Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Ortiz-Torres)

Silver Talons capture gold

By Cadet Elizabeth Spencer

Det. 685, Oregon State University

After months of hard work and intense training, the Silver Talons Drill Team from Oregon State University succeeded in capturing the title for first place overall at the Southern California Invitational Drill Meet, March 5.

The SCIDM is held once a year at Huntington Beach, Calif., and it allows drill teams from across the nation to compete for awards in various categories. This year the competition had 17 senior ROTC detachments and 21 junior ROTC units.

The Silver Talons sent two teams to the competition, an armed 12-person flight and a four-person special operations team. The 12-person flight performed in the main part of the competition, which includes three phases: inspection, regulation, and exhibition. The teams were first inspected by active-duty drill instructors from Lackland Air Force Base, and they were evaluated on personal appearance and military knowledge.

In the end, the Silver Talons were awarded three trophies: third place in inspection, second

place in exhibition, and first place in sweepstakes. The sweepstakes category combined points from the three categories and was presented to the best team overall.

The team began practicing at the start of the school year, and spent about five hours per week training during the first half of the year. As the SCIDM approached, the practices were often increased to eight or more hours per week.

The team was armed with M-1 Garand rifles. Learning how to execute proper drill movements was the first step in the process, but spins, tosses and other exhibition moves required additional practice time.

Time was also spent in various fundraising activities to finance the trip to attend SCIDM. This year, the team traveled 16 hours one way to compete in the drill meet. Any free time was used to shine shoes, iron uniforms, or quiz one another on military, life which included topics varying from chain of command to the muzzle velocity of a rifle.



Photo by Cadet Amanda Wilson

Cadets Danielle Dayton, Adam Miles, Brad Christensen and Lindsey Hughes are being inspected at the 2005 Southern California Invitational Drill Meet. Cadet Christensen maintains his bearing while a military training inspector examines him for military professionalism and decorum.

Cadets gain field training expertise

Det. 028, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

"O' dark-thirty;" that's when the Det. 028 sophomore cadets learned vital information to keep them treading water at field training this summer.

The learning environment, beginning every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 a.m., gave the cadets a taste of the training they would endure at the end of the semester. The cadets learned everything from holding their bearing to road guard procedures.

A typical training session began with an inspection of each person and their gear followed by a five-minute jog around the gym. It allowed the cadets to have time to check standardization and general tidiness. The jog is followed by a regular physical training workout including stretches, pushups, sit-ups, sprints and any other combinations of training the cadets deem appropriate.

After about 45 minutes of PT, the learning of Field Training Prep begins. Here, the cadets learned how to read the 36-203 Field Training Manual and carry out the instructions it contains. Throughout the program, the cadets gained vital information from road guard procedures to proper dining facility protocol.

The program employs the use of the entire campus to obtain real-world training. Road guard procedures are practiced at intersections, and some times cars have to wait. Also, dining procedures are practiced in the school cafeteria early in the morning to give an actual representation of what to expect at field training.

Another practice session gets the cadets ready for their very first day at field training. Cadets practiced reporting procedures to members of Det. 028

cadre in an environment similar to one they will encounter at field training.

They are also responsible for knowing warrior knowledge, which is all provided in a warrior knowledge handbook. The trainees were encouraged to read from the book during brief breaks in schedule. Written knowledge tests

are used to assess how well cadets understand the material in both the warrior knowledge book and Field Training Manual.

The Field Training Preparation program is a tool that Det. 028 uses to enhance the cadets' field training experience.



Courtesy photo

During a brief lull in the Field Training Preparation program activities, Det. 028 trainees study their warrior knowledge handbooks.

To infinity and beyond

Cadets learn about space travel

CA-20014, Lancaster High School

Since its origin in 2001, the Lancaster High School's Junior ROTC program has been actively involved with local aerospace companies along with Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Recently, the cadets had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the momentous launch of Burt Rutan's Space Ship One.

"This was an excellent learning experience for the students, who learned about government funding for space travel, the benefits Rutan gained from his innovative spacecraft design and the outstanding role that space travel will play in America's future," said Cadet Alan Tepe. "I really think this is exciting. It seems like we are making incredible jumps forward in space travel."

The school lies in the heart of the Mojave Desert, an area that encompasses many large aerospace companies including NASA, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin.

CA-20014 has participated in countless curriculum-in-action trips to these companies, and they have given the program an incredible access to aerospace oriented experiences.

The cadets have learned the finer points about the manufacturing process of an F-35, which involves a multi-million dollar automated drilling machine



Courtesy photo

Lancaster High School Junior ROTC cadets examine rocket nozzles at the Air Force Research Lab at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., during a recent base visit.

the size of a house that is accurate to millionths of an inch.

They have also witnessed airport firefighters in action, toured the Air Force Research Lab at Edwards AFB and observed an incredibly loud 120-decibel testing of a jet turbine within a special

facility at Edwards.

The cadets in the JROTC unit have greatly benefited from these educational trips, gaining knowledge of the aerospace world that could never be achieved in the classroom.

Blast Off!

TX-20009, Medina Valley High School

TX-20009 Air Force Junior ROTC model rocket team, The Assassins, won third place in the parachute spot-landing event at the Wildcat Model Rocket Challenge in Wharton, Texas, April 2. In the event, the cadets aimed their rockets as close as possible to the target. The team also won third place in the long-range, spot-landing event at the Judson High School's Sidewinder Model Rocketry Meet in Converse, Texas, April 16. The cadets were required to shoot their rocket at a target that was a 100 yards from the launch site. (Courtesy photo)



Arctic cadets travel to Pacific paradise

During spring break, 34 Junior ROTC cadets and nine chaperones from Ben Eielson, Austin Lathrop and North Pole High Schools, traveled to the island of Oahu for a look at our military history in the Pacific Islands and to visit Junior ROTC and ROTC units in Hawaii.

The cadets were taken to the USS Arizona Memorial and Museum. The park rangers at the memorial provided a short video about the attack on Pearl Harbor that gave insight into Japan's plan to immobilize the Pacific Fleet. The video also explained how the USS Arizona became a memorial and grave for over 1,000 naval members. All of the cadets were moved by the sobriety and realization of this tragedy and how this attack propelled America into World War II.

After the visit to the USS Arizona Memorial, the cadets were given a tour of Pearl Harbor where several destroyers were anchored as well as many other U.S. naval vessels.

The cadets also attended a luau at the Hale Koa Armed Forces Recreational Hotel. They were treated to an exotic meal including: kalua pig, beef teriyaki, shoyu chicken, lomi lomi salmon, mahimahi, poi and coconut cake. Polynesian dancers entertained the crowd during the dinner. The evening culminated in a rendition of Lee Greenwood's "I'm proud to be an American." The cadets and chaperones expressed their sentiments through singing and standing during the song.

Before viewing the Battleship USS Missouri, the cadets visited Ford Island Naval Air Station. It is believed to be where the first bomb hit the islands, which prompted the message that electrified the world: "Air Raid, Pearl Harbor – this is no drill." Driving around the old airfield was interesting and the group stumbled upon the USS Utah Memorial. Not as highly regarded but no less tragic, the USS Utah was also

sunk during the initial raid by the Japanese. After being hit several times the ship capsized and sank, where it still lies to this day. A large container ship was unloading a regiment of marines who were returning from the Middle East. It reminded them that even today we are fighting not only for our freedom, but the freedom of others around the world.

The cadets and chaperones were treated to a tour of one of the largest battleships ever built, the USS Missouri or "Mighty Mo." During the visit several young seamen were reenlisting in the Navy and the cadets had the opportunity to watch this ceremony as it took place on the forward deck.

The USS Missouri is also the site where Japan signed unconditional surrender documents. One can almost sense the significance of the place where World War II officially ended.

After the tour, they headed to Dillingham Field where gliders awaited them for their aerial ride over the island. The view from the glider was exceptional. They saw a panoramic view of the North Shore coast, coral pools, pineapple fields and a few acrobatic aerial maneuvers.

The Army Junior ROTC units at Punahou and Damien High Schools, sponsored a drill competition amongst the five Junior ROTC units. Two active duty Air Force personnel from Hickam Air Force Base judged the competition. Afterwards, the cadets and their guests were invited into the chapel where two of the local cadets sang local Hawaiian songs while playing their guitar and ukulele.

The next stop was the Fort Derussy Army Museum. The museum depicted life on Oahu before it became a luxurious tropical vacation paradise. It was hard for the cadets to imagine how soldiers and Army Air Corps members thought that being stationed on Oahu was a punishment.

Later, the cadets visited the University of Hawaii and the Army and Air Force ROTC detachments. Lt. Col. Reagan from the Army ROTC met the cadets from Lathrop High School. He and several of his top cadets gave a tour to junior cadets who were interested in the university and the Army ROTC program. All of the cadets were impressed by the layout of the university and the possibility of attending college in Hawaii.

Next, cadets tested the beaches and surf at Bellows Air Force Station. The cadets were surprised to find out that the tiny airfield played host to a very unique event in December 1941. Bellows was the site of the first prisoner of war captured during World War II. On Dec. 8, 1941, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki's Type A midge submarine No. 19 was grounded on the reef just offshore of Bellows.

The last day in paradise was also one of the more memorable moments of the trip. Bright and early that morning the cadets arose, donned their uniforms and proceeded to the National Cemetery of the Pacific. After the cadets formed up at the base of the monument, James Messner, a public affairs specialist, spoke to them about the significance of the sacred ground and the men and women who were buried there.

A cadet from each of the three schools placed his hands on a wreath. The wreath honored fellow Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for peace and freedom. The ceremony concluded the cadets' visit by bringing everything together: the attack on Pearl Harbor, the power of our Armed Forces and the fragile balance of power between nations.

Although the cadets knew they had to return to Alaska, the trip would always remind them of the sacrifices that have been made to protect our country.

Third year AL-961 wins *Distinguished Unit Award*

AL-961, Southside High School

AL-961 at Southside High School has been selected as one of 200 units to receive the 2004-2005 Air Force Junior ROTC Distinguished Unit Award.

This marks the third consecutive year that Southside has achieved Distinguished Unit status. Foley High School and Selma High School were the only units of the 16 Air Force Junior ROTC units in Alabama to earn this honor. "This award speaks well of the young people in our program," said Senior

Master Sgt. Alex Medina, an aerospace science instructor. "We make every effort to involve our cadets in the school and community, and likewise have them accountable for as many activities as possible," he added.

Lt. Col. Steve Ruiz, a senior aerospace science instructor, added, "I do not consider what we are doing to be anything spectacular. Both Sergeant Medina and I just try to do the best we can for our cadets. We try to immerse our cadets in

learning those qualities they will need when they graduate. Hopefully they will bring those qualities into their adult communities and workplaces."

The award recognizes Air Force Junior ROTC units that have performed above and beyond normal expectations, and that have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their school and community while meeting the Air Force Junior ROTC mission of producing better citizens for America.

LA-932 wins Video Contest

LA-932, Destrehan High School

Destrehan High School cadets placed first in the 2004-2005 Aerospace Education Foundation's Annual Air Force Junior ROTC Video Contest. In September, the foundation will honor representatives from LA-932 at the Air Force Association's National Convention in Washington, D.C. The unit received a \$1,000 check and an engraved plaque. The AEF, an affiliate of the Air Force Association, is dedicated to ensuring America's aerospace excellence through public awareness pro-

grams, education and financial assistance.

This year's challenge was to create a 60 to 90 seconds public service announcement about "Why freedom is not free." The Destrehan cadets presented a video that was professional with a good blend of message and visuals. The cadets worked as a team to convey a clear message to the targeted audience. The winning video can be viewed at www.aef.org.

The second place award went to VA-20011, Franklin County High School.

Altus High School, OK-941, brought home third place.

The judges were impressed with the overall quality and creativity of the videos. The contest theme for 2005-2006 will be announced early in the fall. The Aerospace Education Foundation offers numerous scholarships, grants, awards and public awareness programs to promote public awareness of the importance of science and technology to national defense.

Face painting for a cause

TN-793, William Blount High School

Elijah Davis (left) gets a snake painted on his face by Cadet Kristina Rhodes of the William Blount High School Jr. ROTC. The group offered face painting for children as they collected money for Tsunami Relief. (Courtesy of The Daily Times)



Photo by Daryl Sullivan

Spring Break: Marine Style

By Maj. Roosevelt Williamson
TN-943, Whites Creek High School

"Get off my bus now!"

Thirty-five Whites Creek Air Force Junior ROTC cadets were greeted with those words by Marine Staff Sgt. McDonald, a drill sergeant at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruiting Station, S.C.

The group was visiting "The Island," as it is called by Marines, as part of the unit's Spring Break 2005 Curriculum-in-Action trip. The cadets spent the next four hours learning what it would be like to be a Marine undergoing boot camp.

"The visit to Parris Island was designed to give them a real-time exposure to Marine recruit life," said Air Force Maj. Roosevelt Williamson, the trip's coordinator.

Under the watchful eyes of unit instructors Major Williamson and Staff Sgt. Savington Nickens, along with the high school trip chaperones Peter Meadows, Tamara Washington and Regina Google, the cadets were presented with numerous physical and mental challenges.

These challenges included recruit in-processing, an obstacle course and a one-mile run. The cadets also got to eat at the Marine chow hall. The cadets' reactions of the visit ranged from enjoyable to dreadful.

"All things considered, it was an experience of a lifetime for some of our cadets, and they definitely have a new appreciation for what it is like to be a Marine," said Major Williamson.

The visit to the island was only part of the week's activities. The group also traveled to Charleston, S.C., March 19 - 23 for a week of educational and fun activities. The group visited Pa-

triot's Point, a naval museum, and toured the USS Yorktown, a World War II aircraft carrier, and other naval vessels. Next, they visited Fort Sumter, a Civil War museum where the opening shots of the war were fired.

Of course, the trip would not be complete without a visit to an Air Force installation.

The group visited Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., where they toured a C-17, the Air Force's newest cargo airplane, and an aerial port.

In addition to military-related tours, the group visited the Six Flags theme park in Atlanta, Ga., and they were treated to a dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Carolina cruise ship.

All things considered, the cadets felt it was a great trip that was filled with a multitude of positive activities. However, most cadets would pass on another visit to "The Island."



Courtesy photos

Whites Creek High School cadets received a startling introduction from Marine Staff Sgt. McDonald, a drill sergeant at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruiting Station, S.C. The cadets got a rare glimpse of the Marine basic training.

Leader Readership Survey

This survey is designed to help us improve Leader. To do this, we are using this survey to better determine how much Air Force and detachment news, personnel programs and policy information and other news you desire.

We are interested in your assessment of the Leader as a source of information about the Air force and ROTC.

1. I read Leader:

___ At least occasionally. ___ Never.

Please use the following scale to answers questions 1-16.

Circle only the one response that best reflects your opinion.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5

2. The Leader is a vital source of ROTC news to me.

1 2 3 4 5

3. The writing in the Leader is easy to understand.

1 2 3 4 5

4. The Leader is designed well and appealing to read.

1 2 3 4 5

5. The Leader provides a valuable cross-flow of information between the detachments.

1 2 3 4 5

6. The Leader plays an important role in preparing me for officership.

1 2 3 4 5

7. The Leader covers are interesting and invite me to read the magazine.

1 2 3 4 5

While remaining completely anonymous, you can give us useful information by checking the appropriate responses on those items.

Thanks for your support of Leader

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the response from the list that best applies to you. Choose only ONE response. Upon completion, remove the survey and mail to the address on the back.

8. The Leader keeps me fully informed about Air Force ROTC events.

1 2 3 4 5

9. Generally, the Leader is written with my interests in mind.

1 2 3 4 5

10. Generally, the Leader keeps me informed about the Air Force.

1 2 3 4 5

11. Overall, the Leader is a trustworthy source of information.

1 2 3 4 5

12. The Leader provides adequate deadline and submission requirements information.

1 2 3 4 5

13. In general the Leader uses a good amount of photos and graphic illustrations.

1 2 3 4 5

14. In general the quality of photos and graphic illustrations in the Leader is good.

1 2 3 4 5

15. The Leader should be provided in an electronic version on the internet or though e-mail.

1 2 3 4 5

16. I am satisfied with the way the Leader keeps me informed.

1 2 3 4 5

Thank you for participating in the Leader magazine survey.

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Army outlasts Navy to win 2005 JMAC

Maxwell/Gunter hosted the 2005 Joint Military Athletic Competition, May 7, between officer trainees from the Air Force, Army and Navy. The competition was fierce and enthusiasm high, but in the end, the "home team" Air Force finished behind the sister services. The Army team won with 17 total points, the Navy team fell just short with 16 total points and the Air Force team finished with 9 points.

Results:

Event	Winner
3-mile run	Army
Super Physical Fitness	Navy
Super Physical Fitness Relay	Army
4 X 400 Relay	Army
Stretcher Carry	Army
Volleyball	Navy
Tug of War	Navy



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